

hardware. A group-determination-table generating device having the functional blocks shown in Fig. 47 may be built, for example, in the seating-order determination device GJD, or may be implemented, for example, by a personal computer which is a separate device from the seating-order determination device GJD. In either case, when the seating-order determination device GJD is finally made to hold a generated group determination table, if it receives attention-degree information from the teleconference devices TCD, it determines the group corresponding to an attention pattern of the conference participants HM1 to HM3 by referring to the group determination table and generates seating-order information according to the group determination.

The group-determination-table generating device includes, as shown in Fig. 47, information obtaining means 301, information conversion means 302, representative-frequency-table generating means 303, representative-group-determination-table generating means 304, representative-group determination means 305, group inverted-conversion means 306, and group-determination-table generating means 307.

The information obtaining means 301 obtains attention patterns and group patterns as samples obtained in an experiment.

The information conversion means 302 uses the pattern conversion table shown in Fig. 41 and the group conversion table shown in Fig. 42 to convert the attention patterns and the group patterns obtained by the information obtaining means 301.

The representative-frequency-table generating means 303 generates a representative frequency table like that shown in Fig. 43 according to representative attention patterns and representative group patterns.

The representative-group-determination-table generating means 304 generates a representative group determination table like that shown in Fig. 44 according to the representative frequency table.

The representative-group determination means 305 searches the representative-group determination table shown in Fig. 44 to determine the representative group pattern corresponding to a representative attention pattern.

The group inverted-conversion means 306 inverted-converts representative group patterns to group patterns.

The group-determination-table generating means 307 generates the group determination table shown in Fig. 40 from group patterns and attention patterns.

In Fig. 47, solid lines with arrows indicate a flow of generating the representative-group determination table shown in Fig. 44, and dotted lines with arrows indicate a

flow of generating the group determination table shown in Fig. 40 from the representative-group determination table.

The group-determination-table generating device having such a structure first generates a representative frequency table such as that shown in Fig. 43.

All attention patterns and group patterns in samples are first converted to representative attention patterns and to group patterns (hereinafter, for convenience, called representative group patterns) to which conversion matching the conversion from the attention patterns to the representative attention patterns is applied, and the frequencies of the representative group patterns for each representative attention pattern are indicated in a representative frequency table.

Fig. 48 shows processing for generating the representative frequency table.

In Fig. 48, "registration to representative frequency table" means that the frequency of a representative attention pattern and a corresponding representative group pattern is incremented by one.

In step S110, the information obtaining means 301 obtains a first sample of an attention pattern and a group pattern. Then, in the next step S111, the information conversion means 302 uses the attention-pattern conversion table to search for the representative attention pattern